

# News Release

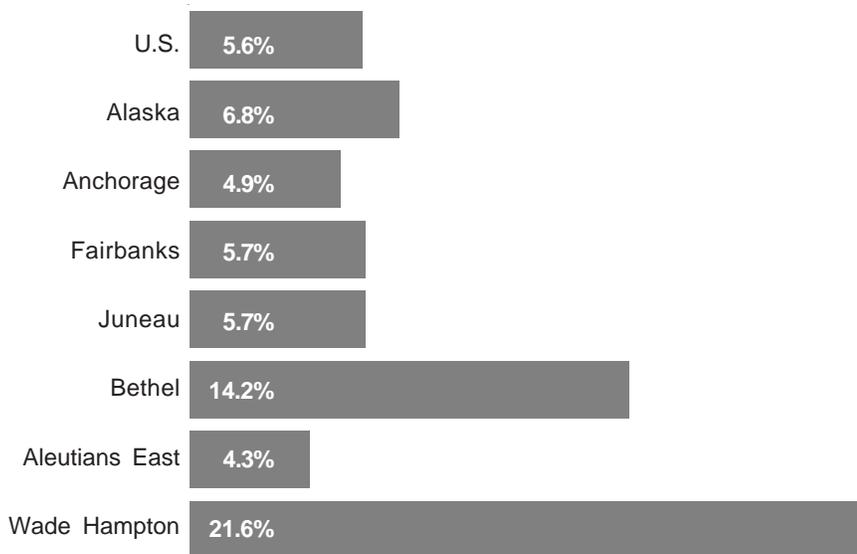
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No. 04-17

## Unemployment Rate Unchanged in October

### October Unemployment for Selected Areas



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section  
All rates not seasonally adjusted (Detailed table on reverse)

### Alaska Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

	preliminary 10/03	revised 09/03	revised 10/02	Changes from	
				09/03	10/02
Total Nonfarm Employment	302,500	314,200	298,600	-11,700	3,900
Natural Resources & Mining	9,900	10,000	10,800	-100	-900
Construction	18,000	19,600	17,700	-1,600	300
Manufacturing	10,000	13,500	9,600	-3,500	400
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	60,900	63,400	60,600	-2,500	300
Information	7,200	7,200	7,200	0	0
Financial Activities	14,200	14,400	13,700	-200	500
Professional & Business Services	24,600	25,300	23,900	-700	700
Education & Health Services	32,800	32,500	30,700	300	2,100
Leisure & Hospitality	28,500	32,900	28,300	-4,400	200
Other Services	12,700	12,700	12,600	0	100
Government	83,600	82,600	83,400	1,000	200

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.  
Benchmark date: March 2002

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

October 2003:	Alaska 7.3%	U.S. 6.0%
September 2003:	Alaska 7.8%	U.S. 6.1%
October 2002:	Alaska 8.2%	U.S. 5.8%

Alaska's unemployment rate remained at 6.8 percent in October as both employment and unemployment numbers fell slightly. The comparable national rate (not seasonally adjusted) fell two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.6 percent. Dan Robinson, a labor economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, reported the numbers.

As expected in October, employment continued its seasonal contraction. Approximately 2,500 fewer Alaskans were employed in October than in September. Generally the decline in employment produces a corresponding, though smaller, increase in unemployment. This month's numbers show a slight decrease in unemployment, however.

Anchorage's unemployment rate fell from 5.2 percent to 4.9 percent in October, while Fairbanks' rate was unchanged at 5.7 percent and Juneau's rate increased from 5.4 percent to 5.7 percent. The lowest recorded rate in October was the Aleutians East Borough at 4.3 percent and the highest was the Wade Hampton Census Area at 21.6 percent.

October estimates of wage and salary employment show a decline of 11,700 jobs in October. The biggest losses were in industries related to the summer visitor season and in manufacturing and construction. The October job count is 3,900 higher than in October 2002 for a modest over-the-year growth rate of 1.3 percent.

The Anchorage/Mat-Su region accounts for the dominant share of the state's wage and salary job growth. Estimates show growth of less than a percent for both the Interior region, where Fairbanks carries most of the weight, and the Southeast region, where Juneau leads the way. The Southwest region has added about 400 jobs since last October, most of them in health care.

The Gulf Coast region, made up of the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, and the Valdez-Cordova Census Area, has lost approximately 100 jobs over the last twelve months. Lower employment numbers from the North Slope oil fields are the primary cause of a 2.5 percent decline in employment in the Northern region.

URL Address: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

Contact: Dan Robinson (907) 465-6036

## Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	10/03	09/03	10/02	10/03	09/03	10/02	10/03	09/03	10/02	10/03	09/03	10/02
Alaska Statewide	345,006	347,813	324,595	23,437	23,720	24,200	6.8	6.8	7.5	321,569	324,093	300,395
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	195,663	192,257	181,786	10,347	10,833	10,706	5.3	5.6	5.9	185,316	181,424	171,080
Municipality of Anchorage	158,175	156,155	148,588	7,697	8,113	7,869	4.9	5.2	5.3	150,478	148,042	140,719
Mat-Su Borough	37,488	36,102	33,198	2,650	2,720	2,837	7.1	7.5	8.5	34,838	33,382	30,361
Gulf Coast Region	33,283	34,967	32,329	3,458	3,231	3,753	10.4	9.2	11.6	29,825	31,736	28,576
Kenai Peninsula Borough	21,840	23,115	21,261	2,378	2,406	2,614	10.9	10.4	12.3	19,462	20,709	18,647
Kodiak Island Borough	6,458	6,682	6,123	538	383	451	8.3	5.7	7.4	5,920	6,299	5,672
Valdez-Cordova CA	4,985	5,170	4,945	542	442	688	10.9	8.5	13.9	4,443	4,728	4,257
Interior Region	52,292	53,481	49,816	3,421	3,293	3,659	6.5	6.2	7.3	48,871	50,188	46,157
Denali Borough	1,357	1,251	1,263	219	82	188	16.1	6.6	14.9	1,138	1,169	1,075
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	45,935	47,157	43,682	2,612	2,666	2,765	5.7	5.7	6.3	43,323	44,491	40,917
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,662	2,694	2,627	259	227	358	9.7	8.4	13.6	2,403	2,467	2,269
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,337	2,380	2,242	331	319	347	14.2	13.4	15.5	2,006	2,061	1,895
Northern Region	9,241	9,341	9,030	1,372	1,586	1,325	14.8	17.0	14.7	7,869	7,755	7,705
Nome Census Area	3,395	3,378	3,261	469	494	396	13.8	14.6	12.1	2,926	2,884	2,865
North Slope Borough	3,496	3,544	3,387	517	608	470	14.8	17.2	13.9	2,979	2,936	2,917
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,349	2,419	2,382	385	484	459	16.4	20.0	19.3	1,964	1,935	1,923
Southeast Region	38,664	41,056	36,767	2,841	2,573	2,828	7.3	6.3	7.7	35,823	38,483	33,939
Haines Borough	1,247	1,288	1,231	140	99	182	11.2	7.7	14.8	1,107	1,189	1,049
Juneau Borough	17,102	18,313	16,276	979	993	1,001	5.7	5.4	6.2	16,123	17,320	15,275
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,325	7,687	7,041	581	442	651	7.9	5.7	9.2	6,744	7,245	6,390
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2,655	2,929	2,560	272	369	302	10.2	12.6	11.8	2,383	2,560	2,258
Sitka Borough	4,531	4,827	4,278	271	251	242	6.0	5.2	5.7	4,260	4,576	4,036
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,127	2,135	2,008	268	138	247	12.6	6.5	12.3	1,859	1,997	1,761
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,368	3,558	3,092	299	261	184	8.9	7.3	6.0	3,069	3,297	2,908
Yakutat Borough	308	318	281	30	20	18	9.7	6.3	6.4	278	298	263
Southwest Region	15,862	16,712	14,868	1,998	2,204	1,929	12.6	13.2	13.0	13,864	14,508	12,939
Aleutians East Borough	1,731	1,803	1,603	75	71	58	4.3	3.9	3.6	1,656	1,732	1,545
Aleutians West Census Area	2,638	2,704	2,465	222	176	210	8.4	6.5	8.5	2,416	2,528	2,255
Bethel Census Area	6,264	6,617	5,849	889	993	833	14.2	15.0	14.2	5,375	5,624	5,016
Bristol Bay Borough	522	546	493	47	49	50	9.0	9.0	10.1	475	497	443
Dillingham Census Area	1,885	1,970	1,792	206	213	225	10.9	10.8	12.6	1,679	1,757	1,567
Lake & Peninsula Borough	572	594	544	72	70	77	12.6	11.8	14.2	500	524	467
Wade Hampton CA	2,250	2,478	2,122	486	632	476	21.6	25.5	22.4	1,764	1,846	1,646

Benchmark: March 2002

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. • Comparisons between different time periods are not as

meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. • The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.